

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 8, 2006.

Claims 5, 7, 22, 25, and 26 have been canceled by way of this amendment. Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 23, and 27 have been amended. No claims are added. Thus, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-12, 14-21, 23, 24, and 27-30 are now pending.

Examiner's Indication of Allowable Subject Matter and Corresponding Amendments to Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 23, and 27

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 6-9, 11, 17-20, 22, and 26-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 5 and 7, and claims 5 and 7 have been canceled. The dependency of claims 6 and 8 has been switched to claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 should be allowable, and its dependent claims 3, 4, 6, and 8-11 should also be allowable.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 22, and claim 22 has been canceled.

Thus, claim 12 should be allowable, and its dependent claims 14-21 should also be allowable.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 25 and 26, and claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. The dependency of claim 27 has been switched to claim 23.

Thus, claim 23 should be allowable, and its dependent claims 24 and 27-30 should also be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-12, 14-21, 23, 24, and 27-30 are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, Ann M. McCrackin (located in Minneapolis, Minnesota) at (612) 349-9592 or Applicant's below-signed attorney (located in Phoenix, Arizona) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,
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